

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-17, and 19-42 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 22, 23, and 25 are amended, claims 13 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and claims 26-42 are added. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments, and support for the new claims may be found in the original specification including original claims, and the drawings.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

At the outset, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action, at page 5, that claims 2, 4, 7-10, and 13-21 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action, at page 2, rejects claims 5, 6, and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

With respect to claim 5, the Office Action asserts that it is unclear as to the manner in which the terms, “virtual path” and “virtual channel,” relate to the terms, “0 and 255” and “1 and 255.” Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 has been amended to recite, in part, “wherein the virtual path is 0 and the virtual channel is 255 when the first board is in the active state, and wherein the virtual path is 1 and the virtual channel is 255 when the second board is in the active state.”

With respect to claim 6, the Office Action asserts that it is unclear as to the manner in which the terms, “virtual path” and “virtual channel,” relate to the term, “zero.” Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 has been amended to recite, in part, “wherein the ATM cell information transferred to the second board comprises a virtual path and a virtual channel, and wherein the virtual path is 0 and the virtual channel is 0”

With respect to claim 11, the Office Action asserts that the term, “simultaneously,” is not understood. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 has been amended to delete the term, “simultaneously.”

With respect to claims 12-16, the Office action asserts that the features recited in claim 12, lines 11-14, are not understood. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 has been amended to recite, in part, “a control circuit to detect a signal from the cell disassembling and assembling circuit, wherein the control circuit maintains an active state when a first board is provided active authority by the signal” Support for claim 12 can be found in the application, for example, at page 7, lines 11-15.

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments and remarks are sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 5, 6, and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Office Action, at page 3, rejects claims 1, 3, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,077, hereinafter “Matsumura”). Since Matsumura fails to teach all of the features of the claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 1, 22, 23, and 25, Applicant respectfully submits that subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 18 is incorporated in claims 1, 22, 23, and 25 for the

sole purpose of expediting the prosecution of the application. Therefore, claims 1, 22, 23, and 25 define patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 22, 23, and 25 are allowable. Claims 3 and 24 depend from claims 1 and 23, respectively, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as additional patentable features recited therein, and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 26-42 recite broadly the embodiments disclosed in the specification. It is respectfully submitted that these new claims are allowable over the references of record.

For example, new independent claim 26 recites an ATM which includes “a number of signal lines connecting ports on the master board and slave board, wherein the signal lines carry state information for switching duplexing between the boards.” None of the cited references teach or suggest these features or the features in dependent claims 27-33.

New independent claim 34 recites an ATM system board comprising “a memory, at least one port, and a controller for storing information in the memory, wherein the information includes state information received through the port for switching a duplexing state of the board.” None of the cited references teach or suggest these features or the features in dependent claims 35-38.

New independent claim 39 recites a duplexing control method in an ATM system, comprising “receiving state information of a master board, storing the state information in a memory of a slave board, and switching a duplexing state of the slave board based on the state information.” None of the cited references teach or suggest these features or the features in

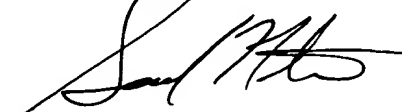
dependent claims 40-42. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the new claims are allowable for at least the features set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Garth D. Richmond**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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